

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data storing and reproducing system using a computer network comprising:

server for storing reproduction data;

5 at least one attachment unit coupled to the server, the at least one attachment unit comprising means for interfacing with a portable memory device having a reference to the reproduction data;

10 first and second reproduction devices 18 coupled to one or more of the at least one attachment unit, the first reproduction device 18 capable of performing a first reproduction of the reproduction data and the second reproduction device 18 capable of performing a second reproduction of the reproduction data, the second data reproduction being different than the first data reproduction; and

15 rule processing means for processing a rule set to determine whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria of the rule set,

20 wherein the at least one attachment unit requests the reproduction data from the server for use by the reproduction device, if the reproduction data satisfies the selection criteria.

25 2. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one attachment unit further comprises a user interface for outputting information and receiving instructions.

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3. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 2, wherein the user interface comprises a portion that is common to all reproduction devices and another portion that is 5 customized to an attached reproduction device.

4. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 2, wherein the user interface displays for selection at least one entry 10 corresponding to a reference to reproduction data stored in the portable memory device that satisfies the selection criteria, and at least one selectable function associated with one of the first and second reproduction devices.

15 5. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 2, wherein the rule set specifies an auto-operation to be automatically performed on reproduction data that satisfies the selection 20 criteria.

6. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 5, wherein the auto-operation is an auto-print operation.

25 7. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 5, wherein the auto-operation is an auto-view operation.

30 8. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 1, wherein the rule processing

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means further comprises a means for determining whether to process the rule set based on a presence of a user-specified override.

5 9. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 1, wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection of "most recently used" reproduction data.

10 10. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 1, wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection of "most frequently used" reproduction data.

11. A data storing and reproducing system according to Claim 1, wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection of reproduction data having a suitable format for one of the first and second reproduction devices.

25 reference to reproduction data stored on a network  
server;

means for processing a rule set to determine whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria of the rule set;

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means for sending a request for the reproduction data, when the reproduction data satisfies the selection criteria;

5 means for receiving the requested reproduction data from the network server and ensuring that the requested reproduction data is in a format for use by one of the plural types of data processing devices; and

10 means for causing the at least one of the plural types of data processing devices to perform a data reproduction of the received data.

15 13. An attachment unit according to Claim 12, further comprising a means for displaying a user interface for outputting information and receiving instructions.

20 14. An attachment unit according to Claim 13, wherein the user interface comprises a portion that is common to all reproduction devices and another portion that is customized to an attached reproduction device.

25 15. An attachment unit according to Claim 12, wherein the display means further comprises:

30 display means for displaying, for selection, at least one entry corresponding to a reference to reproduction data stored in the portable memory device that satisfies the selection criteria, and at least one selectable function

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associated with one of the first and second reproduction devices.

16. An attachment unit according to Claim  
5 12, wherein the rule set specifies an auto-operation  
to be performed using reproduction data that  
satisfies the selection criteria.

17. A data storing and reproducing system  
10 according to Claim 16, wherein the auto-operation is  
an auto-print operation.

18. A data storing and reproducing system  
15 according to Claim 16, wherein the auto-operation is  
an auto-view operation.

19. An attachment unit according to Claim  
20 12, wherein the rule processing means determines  
whether to process the rule set based on a  
user-specified override.

20. An attachment unit according to Claim  
25 12, wherein the rule set includes criteria for  
selection of "most recently used" reproduction data.

30 21. An attachment unit according to Claim  
12, wherein the rule set includes criteria for  
selection of "most frequently used" reproduction  
data.

22. An attachment unit according to Claim 12, wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection of reproduction data having a suitable format for one of the first and second reproduction devices.

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23. A method of storing and reproducing data on at least one of plural types of reproduction devices, the method comprising:

10                   storing the reproduction data on a server;

                      retrieving information stored on a portable memory device in response to a request to reproduce the reproduction data using one of plural types of reproduction devices, the stored information on the portable memory device corresponding to the reproduction data;

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                      retrieving a rule set having selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data;

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                      using the stored information and the rule set to determine whether the reproduction data satisfies the selection criteria, and accessing the reproduction data on the server, if the reproduction data satisfies the selection criteria; and

25                   reproducing the reproduction data using the requested reproduction device.

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24. A method according to Claim 23, further comprising displaying a user interface having a portion that is common to all reproduction devices and another portion that is customized to an attached reproduction device.

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25. A method according to Claim 24,  
wherein the user interface displays for selection at  
least one entry corresponding to a reference to  
5 reproduction data stored in the portable memory  
device that satisfies the selection criteria, and at  
least one selectable function associated with one of  
the first and second reproduction devices.

10 26. A method according to Claim 23,  
wherein the rule set specifies an auto-operation to  
be automatically performed on reproduction data that  
satisfies the selection criteria.

15 27. A method according to Claim 26,  
wherein the auto-operation is an auto-print  
operation.

20 28. A method according to Claim 26,  
wherein the auto-operation is an auto-view  
operation.

25 29. A method according to Claim 23,  
further comprising determining whether to process  
the rule set based on a presence of a user-specified  
override.

30 30. A method according to Claim 23,  
wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection  
of "most recently used" reproduction data.

31. A method according to Claim 23,  
wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection  
of "most frequently used" reproduction data.

5 32. A method according to Claim 23,  
wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection  
of reproduction data having a suitable format for  
one of the first and second reproduction devices.

10 33. A network terminal capable of being  
accessed by at least one data reproduction device  
having means for interfacing with a portable memory  
device, the portable memory device including a  
reference to reproduction data stored in the network  
15 terminal, the network terminal, comprising:

means for storing the reproduction data;  
means for receiving a request for the  
reproduction data from the at least one data  
reproduction device;

20 means for determining whether to convert  
the reproduction data to a format compatible with  
the reproduction device;

means for converting the reproduction data  
based on the result of a determination by the  
25 determination means; and

means for sending the reproduction data to  
the reproduction device,

30 wherein the reproduction data being  
requested and sent satisfies selection criteria  
included in a rule set associated with the  
reproduction data.

34. A network terminal according to Claim 33, wherein the rule set specifies an auto-operation to be automatically performed on reproduction data that satisfies the selection criteria.

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35. A network terminal according to Claim 34, wherein the auto-operation is an auto-print operation.

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36. A network terminal according to Claim 34, wherein the auto-operation is an auto-view operation.

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37. A network terminal according to Claim 33, wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection of "most recently used" reproduction data.

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38. A network terminal according to Claim 33, wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection of "most frequently used" reproduction data.

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39. A network terminal according to Claim 33, wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection of reproduction data having a suitable format for one of the first and second reproduction devices.

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40. A method for reproducing data using a terminal connected to a network having plural types

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of reproduction devices each having data format requirements, the method comprising:

storing the reproduction data;

5 sending access information corresponding to the reproduction data for storage in a portable memory device;

receiving a request for reproduction data determined to satisfy selection criteria included in a rule set associated with the reproduction data;

10 sending the reproduction data for reproduction by the requested reproduction device.

15 41. A method according to Claim 40, wherein the rule set specifies an auto-operation to be automatically performed on reproduction data that satisfies the selection criteria.

20 42. A method according to Claim 41, wherein the auto-operation is an auto-print operation.

43. A method according to Claim 41, wherein the auto-operation is an auto-view operation.

25 44. A method according to Claim 40, wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection of "most recently used" reproduction data.

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45. A method according to Claim 40,  
wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection  
of "most frequently used" reproduction data.

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46. A method according to Claim 40,  
wherein the rule set includes criteria for selection  
of reproduction data having a suitable format for  
one of the first and second reproduction devices.

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